

## Legislative Bulletin.....November 6, 2009

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### **H.Res. 893 - Congratulating the 2009 Major League Baseball World Series Champions, the New York Yankees (*Serrano, D-NY*)**

**Order of Business:** The resolution is scheduled to be considered on Friday, November 6, 2009, under a motion to suspend the rules and pass the resolution.

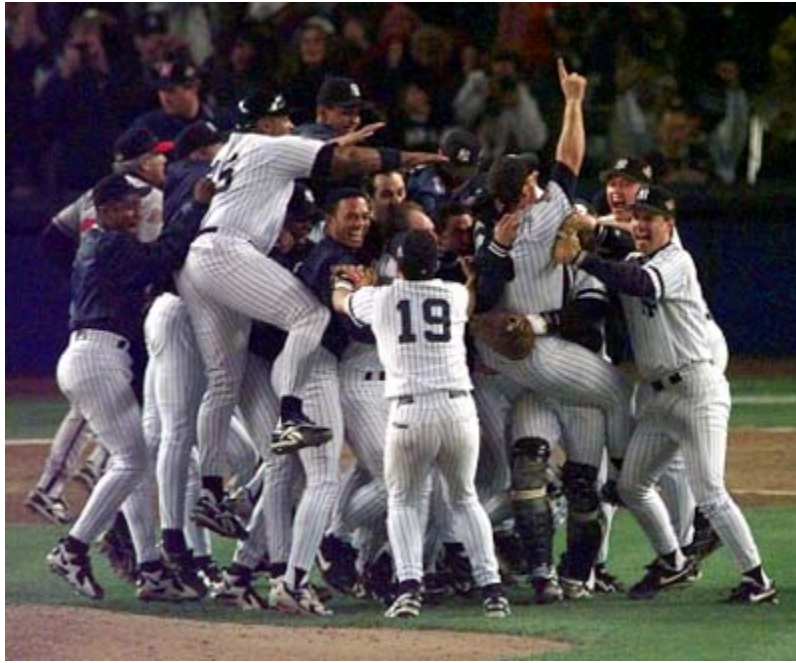
**Summary:** H.Res. 893 resolves that the House of Representatives congratulates:

- “The 2009 Major League Baseball World Series Champions, the New York Yankees, for an outstanding season and a record 27th World Series Championship win; and
- “The players, coaches, staff and leadership of the Yankees organization for their great success.”

The resolution lists a number of findings, including:

- “The New York Yankees are the most successful franchise in the history of Major League Baseball;
- “During the 2009 regular season, the Yankees had the best record in baseball, going 103-59;
- “This victory represents the Yankees' 27th World Series Championship win;
- “This number of championship wins is 17 more than their next closest competitor; and
- “The Yankees were guided to victory by Manager Joe Girardi, General Manager Brian Cashman, President Randy Levine, and the leadership of Hank and Hal Steinbrenner.”

**Additional Information:**



**Committee Action:** H.Res. 893 was introduced on November 5, 2009, and referred to the House Committee on Oversight and Government Reform, which took no public action.

**Cost to Taxpayers:** The resolution authorizes no expenditures.

**Does the Bill Expand the Size and Scope of the Federal Government?:** No.

**Does the Bill Contain Any New State-Government, Local-Government, or Private-Sector Mandates?:** No.

**Does the Bill Comply with House Rules Regarding Earmarks/Limited Tax Benefits/Limited Tariff Benefits?:** A committee reporting citing compliance with the rules regarding earmarks, limited tax benefits, or limited tariff benefits is not available. However, the resolution does not contain any earmarks.

**Constitutional Authority:** A committee report citing constitutional authority is unavailable.

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## **H.R. 3737—Small Business Microlending Expansion Act of 2009 (Rep. Ellsworth, D-IN)**

**Order of Business:** The bill is scheduled to be considered on Friday, November 06, 2009, under a motion to suspend the rules and pass the bill.

**Summary:** This legislation was considered as Title III of H.R. 3854, which passed the House on October 29, 2009, by a vote of [389 – 32](#). H.R. 3737 affects the SBA’s microloan program, which provides loans of up to \$35,000 to assist newly established small businesses comprising borrowers with little credit history, businesses working with non-profit entities to secure financing, and minority or veteran borrowers who may have difficulty qualifying for loans offered under the 7(a) program. H.R. 3737 increases limits for first year intermediary borrowers from a \$750,000 limit to \$1 million in the first year, and doubles the limit from \$3.5 million to \$7 million in subsequent years. The legislation also increases the amount an intermediary can spend on providing technical assistance to small business concerns that are prospective borrows from 25% to 35%. The bill also requires intermediaries that provide loans to have at least 1 year of experience making microloans to startup, newly established, or growing small business concerns, or that have a full-time employee who has at least 3 years experience in managing a portfolio of loans to start companies and 1 year experience providing intensive marketing, management, and technical assistance to its borrowers.

The bill also eliminates the “short term” interest rate loan requirements and replaces it with fixed-interest rates over the long-term and increases the minimum aggregate loan amount to qualify for subsidized interest rates under the program from \$7,500 to \$10,000. In order to carry out the changes to the microloan program, the bill authorizes \$80 million for technical assistance and \$110 million in direct loans annually for FY 2010 and FY 2011.

**Additional Information:** The [SBA Microloan Program](#) provides small, short-term loans to individuals starting a small business or trying to expand an existing one, as well as to owners of not-for-profit child care centers. The microloan program is different from other SBA loan programs, in that rather than merely guaranteeing the loan, the SBA actually loans the money to intermediary lenders who then give loans to eligible borrowers. The intermediary lenders are non-profit community organizations who have experience in

lending; they also provide technical assistance and business advice to small business owners (most intermediaries actually require microloan borrowers to complete a technical training program). SBA microloans can be under \$500 or up to \$35,000, though the average loan is around \$13,000. Although the applications are open to all entrepreneurs, microloans are especially utilized by underserved individuals who would be unable to get a conventional loan because of little or no credit history, low income, rural location, or minority status.

Microloans can be used to pay for working capital, inventory, equipment, and supplies but cannot be used to pay off existing loans or purchase real estate. Loan terms, rates of interest, and required collateral vary. The intermediary lender who determines the eligibility sets these provisions. The maximum term for a microloan is six years, and interest rates are usually between 8 and 13 percent. In addition to the regular fiscal appropriations, the so called “stimulus” provided an extra \$50 million for microloans and \$24 million for technical assistance available to the SBA.

**Committee Action:** On October 7, 2009, the bill was introduced and referred to the committee on Small Business. On October 8, 2009, the subcommittee on Finance and Tax held a mark-up and the bill was referred to the full committee by voice vote. On October 21, 2009, the bill was incorporated into H.R. 3854.

**Administration Position:** No Statement of Administration Policy (SAP) is available.

**Cost to Taxpayers:** A CBO score of cost to taxpayers is not available.

**Does the Bill Expand the Size and Scope of the Federal Government?** No.

**Does the Bill Contain Any New State-Government, Local-Government, or Private-Sector Mandates?** No.

**Does the Bill Comply with House Rules Regarding Earmarks/Limited Tax Benefits/Limited Tariff Benefits?** A Committee Report citing compliance with rules regarding earmarks, limited tax benefits, or limited tariff benefits is not available. Such a report is technically not required because the bill is being considered under a suspension of the rules.

**Constitutional Authority:** A Committee Report citing constitutional authority is not available.

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**H.R. 1838—To amend the Small Business Act to modify certain provisions relating to women's business centers (Rep. Fallin, R-OK)**

**Order of Business:** The bill is scheduled to be considered on Friday, November 06, 2009, under a motion to suspend the rules and pass the bill.

**Summary:** H.R. 1838 was originally considered as Title IV of H.R. 2352 that passed the House on May 20, 2009, by a vote of [406 – 15](#). The bill expands authorization levels in grants for the SBA's Women's Business Center program and standardizes the process to communicate with women's business centers regarding program administration matters, including reimbursement, regulatory matters, and programmatic changes. In addition, the bill classifies that women's grants programs are to be divided into three distinct tiers, and applies performance requirements for centers reapplying for third tier grants. Total authorizations to carry out this section for FY2010 and FY2011 total \$44,000,000.

**Committee Action:** On April, 1, 2009 the bill was introduced and referred to the committee on small business. On April 30, 2009 the Subcommittee on Rural Development, Entrepreneurship and Trade held a mark-up and was forwarded to the full committee by a voice vote. On May 13, 2009, the bill was incorporated into H.R. 2352.

**Administration Position:** No Statement of Administration Policy (SAP) is available.

**Cost to Taxpayers:** A CBO score of cost to taxpayers is not available.

**Does the Bill Expand the Size and Scope of the Federal Government?** No.

**Does the Bill Contain Any New State-Government, Local-Government, or Private-Sector Mandates?** No.

**Does the Bill Comply with House Rules Regarding Earmarks/Limited Tax Benefits/Limited Tariff Benefits?** A Committee Report citing compliance with rules regarding earmarks, limited tax benefits, or limited tariff benefits is not available. Such a report is technically not required because the bill is being considered under a suspension of the rules.

**Constitutional Authority:** A Committee Report citing constitutional authority is not available.

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## **H.R. 3743—Small Business Disaster Readiness and Reform Act of 2009 (Rep. Griffith, D-AL)**

**Order of Business:** The bill is scheduled to be considered on Friday, November 06, 2009, under a motion to suspend the rules and pass the bill.

**Summary:** This legislation was considered as Title III of H.R. 3854, which passed the House on October 29, 2009, by a vote of [389 – 32](#). H.R. 3743 increases the limit on

disaster loans from \$1.5 million to \$3 million for homeowner loans, and from \$2 to \$3 million for business loans. The bill also creates a minimum deferment period of 12 months (currently, first payment on a disaster loan usually starts 5 months after the date of the loan), and mandates that the repayment period begin from the date that the final loan disbursement is made. The bill also mandates certain percentages of a disaster loan be disbursed (depending upon the size of the loan) regardless of circumstances on the ground (unless the borrower requests a lower amount). Current practice ties disbursement with need in the rebuilding process to avoid releasing money from the approved disaster loan for services not rendered.

The provision also creates a new small business disaster grant program that authorizes “such sums as necessary” for the SBA to make grants to small businesses of up to \$100,000 for the businesses most severely affected by a catastrophic disaster. This would be the first time the SBA provides grants directly to small businesses. In order to receive the grant, a small business owner has to be rejected for a disaster loan and the SBA must give priority to small businesses that they determine are “economically viable but unable to meet short-term financial obligations.”

- **Conservative Concern:** Some conservatives have expressed that because most disaster loans made by the SBA are under \$100,000, allowing small business owners to receive up to \$100,000 in grants in the aftermath of a major disaster would essentially nullify the entire purpose of obtaining a loan. Additionally, in many previous major disasters, Congress has historically passed supplemental appropriations to cover the cost of recovery that can assist small businesses usually through extra funding in the Community Development Block Grant program at HUD. Finally, any disaster victim, including small business owners, can apply for a FEMA grant of up to \$30,300 to take care of temporary, emergency needs.

Some conservatives have also expressed reservations that this provision will incentivize a small business owner to get a disaster grant over a disaster loan because the purpose of the disaster grants are primarily to assist small businesses while they wait for disaster loan approval from the SBA to meet short-term economic needs. However, if the small business has to be turned down for the disaster loan by the SBA first before getting this grant, some conservative may question the need for the disaster grant in the first place because every small business owner will want to be denied a disaster loan to get this grant. Some conservatives may believe this provision also rewards the less responsible small business owner by forcing more responsible small business persons to pay back a disaster loan while less viable firms receive a grant.

Finally, some conservatives have expressed reservations about instituting a new grant program without any detailed findings that grants would have saved businesses during recovery from a disaster that were not saved by loans.



**Additional Background:** The SBA offers low-interest loans to homeowners, renters, businesses, and non-profit organizations for uninsured private property, inventory, real estate, equipment, and business assets that have been damaged in a declared disaster. Since 1953, the SBA has provided more than 1.9 million loans to disaster victims. There are three types of disaster loans: Home Disaster Loans (for damaged real estate and personal property), Business Physical Disaster Loans (to repair or replace damaged property owned by a business or non-profit organization), and Economic Injury Disaster Loans (to provide working capital for small businesses damaged in a disaster). Interest rates vary depending on whether or not the applicant has credit available elsewhere, and the maximum loan term is 30 years, though for businesses with credit available elsewhere the term is only 3 years. Home loans are capped at \$200,000, while both Business Loans and Economic Injury Loans have a limit of \$1,500,000. The SBA may also help with refinancing if an applicant does not have credit elsewhere, has suffered serious losses, and plans to rebuild or repair.

**Committee Action:** On September, 22, 2009 the bill was introduced and referred to the committee on small business, which took no further subsequent public action.

**Administration Position:** No Statement of Administration Policy (SAP) is available.

**Cost to Taxpayers:** A CBO score of cost to tax payers is not available.

**Does the Bill Expand the Size and Scope of the Federal Government?** No.

**Does the Bill Contain Any New State-Government, Local-Government, or Private-Sector Mandates?** No.

**Does the Bill Comply with House Rules Regarding Earmarks/Limited Tax Benefits/Limited Tariff Benefits?** A Committee Report citing compliance with rules regarding earmarks, limited tax benefits, or limited tariff benefits is not available. Such a report is technically not required because the bill is being considered under a suspension of the rules.

**Constitutional Authority:** A Committee Report citing constitutional authority is not available.

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## **H.R. 1845—Small Business Development Centers Modernization Act of 2009 (Rep. Schock, R-IL)**

**Order of Business:** The bill is scheduled to be considered on Friday, November 06, 2009, under a motion to suspend the rules and pass the bill.

**Summary:** H.R. 1845 was originally considered as Title VII of H.R. 2352 that passed the House on May 20, 2009, by a vote of [406 – 15](#). The bill makes several operational and technical changes to the Small Business Development Center (SBDC) Program by strengthening eligibility criteria for SBDC grantees by requiring new award recipients to be institutions of higher education that are fully accredited. According to its website, SBDC's "offer one-stop assistance to individuals and small businesses by providing a wide variety of information and guidance in central and easily accessible branch locations. The program is a cooperative effort of the private sector, the educational community and federal, state and local governments and is an integral component of Entrepreneurial Development's network of training and counseling services." Additionally, this section of the legislation establishes a green entrepreneurial development program to provide education classes in starting a business in the fields of energy efficiency, green technology, or clean technology. Total authorizations to carry out this section for FY2010 and FY2011 total \$330,000,000.

**Committee Action:** On April, 1, 2009 the bill was introduced and referred to the committee on small business. On April 30, 2009 the Subcommittee on Rural Development, Entrepreneurship and Trade held a mark-up and was it forwarded to the full committee by a voice vote. On May 13, 2009, the bill was incorporated to H.R. 2352.

**Administration Position:** No Statement of Administration Policy (SAP) is available.

**Cost to Taxpayers:** A CBO score of cost to taxpayers is not available.

**Does the Bill Expand the Size and Scope of the Federal Government?** No.

**Does the Bill Contain Any New State-Government, Local-Government, or Private-Sector Mandates?** No.

**Does the Bill Comply with House Rules Regarding Earmarks/Limited Tax Benefits/Limited Tariff Benefits?** A Committee Report citing compliance with rules regarding earmarks, limited tax benefits, or limited tariff benefits is not available. Such a report is technically not required because the bill is being considered under a suspension of the rules.

**Constitutional Authority:** A Committee Report citing constitutional authority is not available.

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**H.Res. \_\_ - Providing for the passage of the bills (H.R. 1299) - Capitol Police Administrative Technical Corrections Act of 2009 as amended (Brady, D-PA) – and (S.1023) The Travel Promotion Act of 2009 (Sen. Dorgan, D-ND)**



\*See below for the two Legislative Bulletins on the two bills included in this H.Res.

### **Bill #1: H.R. 1299 – Capitol Police Administrative Technical Corrections Act of 2009 (*Brady, D-PA*)**

**Order of Business:** H.R. 1299 is expected to be considered on Friday, November 6, 2009, on a motion to suspend the rules and pass the bill. The bill passed the House of Representatives on March 31, 2009 by a vote of [416-1](#).

**Summary:** H.R. 1299 would clarify a number of the administrative authorities of the Chief of the Capitol Police, including the Chief's role in determining compensation, approving hiring and terminations, and appointing police officials.

The bill makes clarifying changes to the already existing position of Chief Administrative Officer, who would be appointed by the Chief of the Capitol Police and be paid \$1,000 less than the Chief annually. The bill would also require the Chief of the Capitol Police to give notice to the House and Senate Committees on Administration before hiring, firing, or promoting an officer. In addition, the Chief would be required to notify the House and Senate Committees on Administration prior to making advance payments to Capitol Police Officers for subscription services. The bill would also repeal a requirement that officers must buy their own uniforms.

**Additional Background:** According to the Office of Personnel Management (OPM), the Capitol Police was established in Congress in 1828 for the sole purpose of protecting the U.S. Capitol Building. Today, the mission of the Capitol Police has grown to “provide the Congressional community and its visitors with the highest quality of a full range of police services.” The Capitol Police are funded through the annual Legislative Branch Appropriation bill, and they are regulated by Congress directly. Therefore, a federal law must be passed to change an aspect of Capitol Police administration.

According to the Committee, the House Administration Committee worked closely with the Capitol Police to draft this bill. The Capitol Police are supportive of H.R. 1299.

**Statement of Administration Policy (SAP):** No SAP was available at press time.

**Committee Action:** H.R. 1299 was introduced on March 4, 2009, and was referred to the Committee on the House Administration. The bill was marked up and reported out of committee by voice vote on March 25, 2009.

**Cost to Taxpayer:** No CBO score for H.R. 1299 is available. According to CBO, an identical bill from the 110<sup>th</sup> Congress, H.R. 5972, would have no impact on mandatory or discretionary spending.

**Does the Bill Expand the Size and Scope of the Federal Government?:** No.

**Does the Bill Contain Any New State-Government, Local-Government, or Private-Sector Mandates?:** No.

**Does the Bill Comply with House Rules Regarding Earmarks/Limited Tax Benefits/Limited Tariff Benefits?:** No committee report is available.

**Constitutional Authority:** No committee report is available.

## **Bill #2: The Travel Promotion Act of 2009 (*Sen. Dorgan, D-ND*)**

**Order of Business:** The bill is scheduled to be considered on Friday, November 6, 2009 under a motion to suspend the rules and pass the bill. The bill passed the Senate by a [vote of 79-19](#) on September 9, 2009. A similar bill (H.R. 1035, which also included the Morris K. Udall Scholarship and Excellence in National Environmental Policy Amendments Act of 2009) also passed the House in October by a vote of [358-66](#). **Please see the potential conservative concerns listed below on S. 1023.**

**Summary:** S. 1023 would create a new agency chartered as a public-private nonprofit corporation to promote international tourism within the United States. The Corporation would not be an agency or establishment of the United States Government and would be subject to the provisions of the District of Columbia Nonprofit Corporation Act. The Corporation would be overseen by a board of directors of 11 members, appointed by the Secretary of Commerce after consultation with the Secretaries of Homeland Security and State. The board would be required to establish annual objectives for the Corporation. The Corporation would establish a tourism marketing plan for each fiscal year, an annual budget, and submit an annual report to Congress and the Secretary of Treasury.

The Corporation for Travel Promotion would collect fees from both private firms operating in the travel industry and a \$10 fee placed on visitors coming from visa waiver countries. The Visa Waiver Program (VWP) allows foreign visitors from member countries to come to the United States for up to 90 days without a visa. The money, deposited into the general Treasury and transferred to the Corporation would be used to create marketing campaigns to help bring visitors to the United States. Specifically, the Corporation would develop a plan to:

- Identify, counter, and correct misperceptions regarding United States entry policies around the world.
- Maximize the economic and diplomatic benefits of travel to the United States by promoting the United States of America to world travelers through the use of all forms of advertising, outreach to trade shows, and other appropriate promotional activities.
- Ensure that international travel benefits all states and the District of Columbia and to identify opportunities and strategies to promote tourism to rural and urban areas equally, including areas not traditionally visited by international travelers.

- Give priority to the Corporations' efforts with respect to countries and populations most likely to travel to the United States.

In order to pay for the program, the bill establishes a Travel Promotion Fund. For fiscal year 2010, the Corporation is authorized to receive up to \$10 million from the general fund of the Treasury to cover the Corporation's initial expenses and activities under the Act. The Corporation must provide matching amounts from non-Federal sources equal in the aggregate to 50 percent or more of the amount transferred to the fund.

**For each of fiscal years 2011 through 2014, the Corporation is authorized to receive up to \$100,000,000 from the Treasury to carry out the provisions of the bill (which is why some conservatives view this as a cost of \$400 million over four years).** The transfer is designed to be paid for by the VWP fee. The Corporation must provide matching amounts from non-Federal sources equal in the aggregate to 100 percent of the amount transferred to the fund.

The legislation authorizes the Corporation to impose an annual assessment, initially set at \$20 million on sectors of the travel industry pending their approval.

Finally, the bill establishes an Office of Travel Promotion within the Department of Commerce to serve as liaison to “support and encourage the development of programs to increase the number of international visitors to the United States for business, leisure, educational, medical, exchange, and other purposes.” Additionally, the legislation expands upon research and development activities within the Department of Commerce in connection with the promotion of international travel to the United States, including:

- Expanding access to official Mexican travel surveys, revising the design and format of questionnaires to accommodate new survey instruments.
- Developing estimates of international travel exports (expenditures) on a state-by-state basis to enable each state to compare its comparative position to national totals and other states.
- Providing for an evaluation of the Travel Promotion Act of 2009.

**Additional Background:** According to the Heritage Foundation, “In 2008, foreign travelers spent \$100 billion in the United States. Foreign tourists often spend three times that of domestic travelers.”

### **Conservative Concerns:**

The concerns about S. 1023 expressed by conservatives include, but are not limited to, the following:

- The bill creates a \$400 million Travel Promotion Fund funded by fees on international visitors, thus ironically discouraging foreign travel to the United States and encouraging other governments to enact reciprocal fees for American travelers to their own countries. The European Union has already indicated that any American fee might cause them to reciprocate with a fee of their own.
- The U.S. government is getting into the business of advertising for travel destinations – a business that many conservatives might believe should be left up to the states or private industry. The fee will fund an international advertising campaign to encourage travel to the United States. For more information on who will control the advertising campaigns, see Senator Jim DeMint's op-ed in the Washington Post [here](#).
- The fee is levied on people who are already traveling to America.
- The bill creates a new Office of Travel Promotion within the Department of Commerce and yet another public-private corporation that could soon exceed its charter like Fannie Mae did.
- The bill is being crammed into a non-controversial bill in the House because it is a revenue bill which must originate in the House. The \$400 million spending bill will not have the opportunity to be amended or properly debated on the House floor because it is being considered under suspension of the rules.
- The European Commission has pointed out in a letter to the House of Representatives that the fee could be contradictory to international agreements on visa-fee-free travel.

Some conservatives support the bill for the following reasons:

- The bill develops a program to encourage travel to the U.S. without implementing a tax on Americans.
- Travel industry feels so strongly that this will encourage travel to the United States that they are willing to match the fee imposed on travelers to the United States dollar for dollar.
- Overseas travel in the U.S. has declined in recent years. This bill will create a campaign to encourage visitors to come to the United States.
- CBO estimates the bill will increase revenues by \$135 million over the 2010-2019 period. CBO also estimates that S. 1023 would decrease direct spending by \$290 million and reduce budget deficits by \$425 million over the 2010-2019 period.
- By marketing tourism to foreigners, Oxford Economics has indicated that the bill could attract 1.6 million new international visitors annually. The new travelers will generate revenue for American businesses of all sizes and will create new jobs.

**Committee Action:** On May 12, 2009, S. 1023 was introduced and referred to the Senate Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation. S. 1023, as passed by the Senate, was never considered by a House Committee.

**Administration Position:** No Statement of Administration Policy is provided.

**Cost to Taxpayers:** According to CBO, S. 1023 authorizes \$87 million over the 2010-2014 period. Additionally, CBO estimates the bill will increase revenues by \$135 million over the 2010-2019 period, net of payroll and income tax offsets. CBO also estimates the S. 1023 would decrease direct spending by \$290 million and reduce budget deficits by \$425 million over the 2010-2019 period.

**Does the Bill Expand the Size and Scope of the Federal Government?:** Yes, the bill creates a new office of tourism and a new public-private corporation with the purpose of subsidizing advertising.

**Does the Bill Contain Any New State-Government, Local-Government, or Private-Sector Mandates?:** Yes, according to CBO “the bill would authorize the Corporation to impose an annual assessment on certain U.S. members of the travel and tourism industry, provided industry members approve the assessment in a referendum. In the event that such an assessment is approved, S.1023 would impose a private-sector mandate on the members of the international travel and tourist industry who would be required to pay the assessment. Based on information from sources in the travel industry, CBO estimates that the payments of such assessments would total about \$20 million per year, well below the annual threshold for private-sector mandates established in UMRA (\$139 million in 2009, adjusted annually for inflation).”

**Does the Bill Comply with House Rules Regarding Earmarks/Limited Tax Benefits/Limited Tariff Benefits?:** An earmarks/revenue benefits statement required under House Rule XXI, Clause 9(a) was not available at press time.

**Constitutional Authority:** None is cited in the legislation, and a committee report citing constitutional authority is not available.

**Outside Groups Opposing when the bill was considered in October:** International Air Transport Association, The Heritage Foundation (See Heritage’s report [here](#))

**\*Note:** The European Commission is also opposed to this bill.

**Outside Groups Supporting when the bill was considered in October:** A variety of outside groups are supporting this bill, including, but not limited to the \*Chamber of Commerce, Walt Disney Parks and Resorts, Universal Orlando, American Hotel and Lodging Association, Air Transport Association, International Franchise Association, National Restaurant Association.

\* indicates that the Chamber may Key Vote the bill

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**H.Res. 700 - Expressing support for designation of the week beginning  
on November 9, 2009, as National School Psychology Week  
(Loebsack, D-IA)**

**Order of Business:** The resolution is scheduled to be considered on Friday, November 6, 2009, under a motion to suspend the rules and pass the resolution.

**Summary:** H.Res. 700 resolves that the House of Representatives:

- “Supports the designation of National School Psychology Week;
- “Honors and recognizes the contributions of school psychologists to the success of students in schools across the United States; and
- “Encourages the people of the United States to observe the week with appropriate ceremonies and activities that promote awareness of the vital role school psychologists play in schools, in the community, and in helping students develop into successful and productive members of society.”

The resolution lists a number of findings, including:

- “Learning and development are directly linked to the mental health of children, and a supportive learning environment is an optimal place to promote mental health;
- “School psychologists are specially trained to deliver mental health services and academic support that lower barriers to learning and allow teachers to teach more effectively;
- “The National Association of School Psychologists establishes and maintains high standards for training, practice, and school psychologist credentialing, in collaboration with organizations such as the American Psychological Association, that promote effective and ethical services by school psychologists to children, families, and schools;
- “The people of the United States should recognize the vital role school psychologists play in the personal and academic development of the Nation's children; and
- “The week beginning on November 9, 2009, would be an appropriate week to designate as National School Psychology Week.”

**Committee Action:** H.Res. 700 was introduced on July 30, 2009, and referred to the House Committee on Education and Labor, which took no public action.

**Cost to Taxpayers:** The resolution authorizes no expenditures.



**Does the Bill Expand the Size and Scope of the Federal Government?:** No.

**Does the Bill Contain Any New State-Government, Local-Government, or Private-Sector Mandates?:** No.

**Does the Bill Comply with House Rules Regarding Earmarks/Limited Tax Benefits/Limited Tariff Benefits?:** A committee reporting citing compliance with the rules regarding earmarks, limited tax benefits, or limited tariff benefits is not available. However, the resolution does not contain any earmarks.

**Constitutional Authority:** A committee report citing constitutional authority is unavailable.

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**H.Res. 877 - Expressing support for Chinese human rights activists Huang Qi and Tan Zuoren for engaging in peaceful expression as they seek answers and justice for the parents whose children were killed in the Sichuan earthquake of May 12, 2008 (*Wu, D-OR*)**

**Order of Business:** The resolution is scheduled to be considered on Friday, November 6, 2009, under a motion to suspend the rules and pass the resolution.

**Summary:** H.Res. 877 resolves that the House of Representatives:

- “Expresses its support for Huang Qi and Tan Zuoren for engaging in peaceful expression as they seek answers and justice for the parents whose children were killed in the Sichuan earthquake of May 12, 2008; and
- “Calls on the Government of the People's Republic of China to—
  1. “Provide Huang Qi and Tan Zuoren with the rights that all Chinese citizens have under article 35 and article 41 of China's Constitution, namely freedom of speech and association and the right to make suggestions to officials free from suppression and retaliation;
  2. “Ensure that Huang Qi and Tan Zuoren are afforded the rights guaranteed to all defendants under the Criminal Procedure Law of the People's Republic of China; and
  3. “Implement its own National Human Rights Action Plan by allowing parents, concerned citizens, and the news media to conduct their own investigations into the role inferior construction and corruption may have played in the collapse of school buildings during the Sichuan earthquake, free from government harassment and official interference, and by ensuring that citizens have full access to effective legal remedies for their grievances.”

The resolution lists a number of findings, including:

- “Chinese human rights activists Huang Qi and Tan Zuoren both sought to help the parents whose children were killed as a result of the collapse of numerous school buildings during the Sichuan earthquake of May 12, 2008;
- “The parents allege that school buildings collapsed at a much higher rate than other types of buildings during the Sichuan earthquake;
- “Chinese courts have refused to hear lawsuits brought by parents seeking accountability for the school collapses, and Chinese officials have warned lawyers not to take on these cases; and
- “Local Chinese officials have taken steps to prevent parents from petitioning to higher authorities and have kept some parents in arbitrary detention.”

**According to the text of the resolution:** Huang Qi, founder of the human rights advocacy website Tianwang Human Rights Center (64tianwang.com), traveled to the earthquake zone after the Sichuan earthquake and later posted articles on his website about the demands by parents for an investigation into the collapse of school buildings that killed thousands of children. Police took Huang into custody on June 10, 2008, and Chengdu public security officials formally arrested him on July 18, 2008, on charges of illegally possessing state secrets. Huang's closed trial was held on August 5, 2009, and according to the international nongovernmental organization Human Rights in China, four police officers kidnapped a volunteer for the Tianwang Human Rights Center, Pu Fei, to prevent him from testifying on Huang's behalf. Following the Sichuan earthquake, writer and environmental activist Tan Zuoren was active in calling for the government to investigate the cause of the large number of school building collapses during the earthquake. Tan issued a preliminary report in March 2009 that criticized officials for failing to follow through on a commitment to fully investigate the role that inferior construction played in the school building collapses and for failure to deal with parents' demands. Authorities detained Tan on March 28, 2009, three days after the report was published. Tan's trial, held by the Chengdu Intermediate People's Court on August 12, 2009, was marred by procedural violations. The court reportedly rejected requests by Tan's lawyers to call three witnesses, including Ai Weiwei, a noted artist who helped design the Beijing Olympics' National Stadium, or Bird's Nest, and who also was investigating student deaths in the Sichuan earthquake. The courts have not yet issued judgments in either Huang's case or Tan's case.

**Committee Action:** H.Res. 877 was introduced on October 29, 2009, and referred to the House Committee on Foreign Affairs, which took no public action.

**Cost to Taxpayers:** The resolution authorizes no expenditures.

**Does the Bill Expand the Size and Scope of the Federal Government?:** No.

**Does the Bill Contain Any New State-Government, Local-Government, or Private-Sector Mandates?:** No.

**Does the Bill Comply with House Rules Regarding Earmarks/Limited Tax Benefits/Limited Tariff Benefits?:** A committee reporting citing compliance with the rules regarding earmarks, limited tax benefits, or limited tariff benefits is not available. However, the resolution does not contain any earmarks.

**Constitutional Authority:** A committee report citing constitutional authority is unavailable.

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**H.Res. 892 - Recognizing the 20th anniversary of the remarkable events leading to the end of the Cold War and the creation of a Europe, whole, free, and at peace. (*Berman, D-CA*)**

**Order of Business:** The resolution is scheduled to be considered on Friday, November 6, 2009, under a motion to suspend the rules and pass the resolution.

**Summary:** H.Res. 892 resolves that the House of Representatives:

- “Recognizes the events of 1989 that helped lead to the end of the Cold War;
- “Congratulates the countries of Central and Eastern Europe who have made great progress in the past 20 years and emerged as strong, vibrant democracies;
- “Expresses strong support and friendship for the countries of Central and Eastern Europe, and reaffirms its commitment to the solemn obligations set forth in article 5 of the North Atlantic Treaty;
- “Welcomes the commitment by the European Union (EU) and the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) to keep the door to membership open for all European countries which meet the conditions for accession; and
- “Supports the continued efforts to create a Europe whole, free and at peace.”

The resolution lists a number of findings, including:

- “On February 6, 1989, after almost 10 years of unarmed struggle, the Polish free trade union Solidarity finally succeeded in forcing the Government of Poland to begin talks on broad political and economic change;
- “On April 6, 1989, Solidarity was legalized, enabling it to contest elections for 35 percent of the seats in the Sejm and all the seats in the Senat, resulting in the historic election victory for Solidarity on June 4 in which Solidarity won all the seats available to it in the Sejm and 99 out of 100 seats in the Senat, leading to the installation of the first non-Communist government since January 1945;
- “On May 2, 1989, the Hungarian government began dismantling the barbed wire fence separating Hungary in the Soviet-controlled East from Austria in the free West, causing a ‘tear in the Iron Curtain’ that was never to be closed again;
- “On August 23, 1989, 2,000,000 people living in the Baltic states of Estonia, Latvia, and Lithuania linked hands to form a human chain almost 400 miles long

- in a peaceful protest of Soviet rule and in order to demand the restoration of independent statehood; and
- “In the past 20 years, most of the countries of Central and Eastern Europe have become stable, prosperous, and vibrant democracies, with many becoming members of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) and the European Union (EU).”

**Committee Action:** H.Res. 892 was introduced on November 5, 2009 referred to the House Committee on Foreign Affairs, which took no public action.

**Cost to Taxpayers:** The resolution authorizes no expenditures.

**Does the Bill Expand the Size and Scope of the Federal Government?:** No.

**Does the Bill Contain Any New State-Government, Local-Government, or Private-Sector Mandates?:** No.

**Does the Bill Comply with House Rules Regarding Earmarks/Limited Tax Benefits/Limited Tariff Benefits?:** A committee reporting citing compliance with the rules regarding earmarks, limited tax benefits, or limited tariff benefits is not available. However, the bill does not contain any earmarks.

**Constitutional Authority:** A committee report citing constitutional authority is unavailable.

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**H.Res. 833 - Honoring the 60th anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic relations between the United States and the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan, the 10th anniversary of the accession to the throne of His Majesty King Abdullah II Ibn Al Hussein (*Schiff, D-CA*)**

**Order of Business:** The resolution is scheduled to be considered on Friday, November 6, 2009, under a motion to suspend the rules and pass the resolution.

**Summary:** H.Res. 833 resolves that the House of Representatives:

- “Commemorates the 60th anniversary of the close relationship between the United States and the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan;
- “Expresses its profound admiration and gratitude for the friendship of the Jordanian people;
- “Congratulates His Majesty King Abdullah II on 10 years of enlightened and progressive rule; and

- “Shares the hope of His Majesty King Abdullah II and the Jordanian people for a more peaceful Middle East.”

The resolution lists a number of findings, including:

- “For 60 years, the United States and Jordan have enjoyed a close relationship, spanning a gamut of issues from the search for peace in the Middle East, the socioeconomic development of the Jordanian people, and the threat to both posed by al Qaeda;
- “From 1952 to 1999, King Hussein charted a moderate path for his country;
- “King Hussein and Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin signed the historic Jordan-Israel peace treaty in 1994, ending nearly 50 years of war between the neighboring countries;
- “The United States lost a close friend and a crucial partner when King Hussein passed away in 1999; and
- “In the aftermath of the September 11, 2001, terrorist attacks, Jordan has been an instrumental partner in the fight against al Qaeda, has provided crucial assistance in Iraq, and shouldered a great part of the Iraqi refugee burden.”

**Committee Action:** H.Res. 833 was introduced on October 14, 2009, and referred to the House Committee on Foreign Affairs which took no public action.

**Cost to Taxpayers:** The resolution authorizes no expenditures.

**Does the Bill Expand the Size and Scope of the Federal Government?:** No.

**Does the Bill Contain Any New State-Government, Local-Government, or Private-Sector Mandates?:** No.

**Does the Bill Comply with House Rules Regarding Earmarks/Limited Tax Benefits/Limited Tariff Benefits?:** A committee reporting citing compliance with the rules regarding earmarks, limited tax benefits, or limited tariff benefits is not available. However, the resolution does not contain any earmarks.

**Constitutional Authority:** A committee report citing constitutional authority is unavailable.

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**H.Con.Res. \_\_\_\_ - Recognizing the 30<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Iranian hostage crisis, during which 52 United States citizens were held hostage for 444 days from November 4, 1979, to January 20, 1981, and for other purposes. (Fortenberry, R, NE)**

**Order of Business:** The resolution is scheduled to be considered on Friday, November 6, 2009, under a motion to suspend the rules and pass the resolution.

**Summary:** H.Con.Res. \_\_\_\_ solves that the House of Representatives (*the Senate concurring*):

- “Recognizes the 30th anniversary of the Iranian hostage crisis, during which 52 United States citizens were held hostage for 444 days;
- “Honors the sacrifice and service of the United States diplomats and military personnel held hostage and the servicemen who lost their lives and were wounded in a valiant attempt to free the United States hostages;
- “Expresses its support for all Iranian citizens who embrace the values of freedom, human rights, civil liberties, and rule of law; and
- “Urges the Secretary of State to make every effort to assist United States citizens held hostage in Iran at any time during the period beginning on November 4, 1979, and ending on January 20, 1981, and their survivors in matters of compensation related to such citizens’ detention.

The resolution lists a number of findings, including:

- “On November 4, 1979, Iranian militants scaled the walls of the United States Embassy in Tehran and took 63 United States citizens and diplomats hostage;
- “Three more United States citizens were taken prisoner at the Iranian Foreign Ministry, for a total of 66 hostages;
- “A total of 52 United States citizens were held hostage for 444 days until January 20, 1981, in isolated and under psychologically intimidating and onerous conditions;
- “The United States broke off diplomatic relations with Iran on April 7, 1980, following unsuccessful diplomatic efforts to free the hostages;
- “The following United States military personnel from the all-volunteer Joint Special Operations Group lost their lives and three more were injured in the Great Salt Desert near Tabas, Iran, on April 25, 1980, in the aborted attempt to rescue the United States hostages—
  - (1) Capt. Richard L. Bakke, 34, Long Beach, CA. Air Force;
  - (2) Sgt. John D. Harvey, 21, Roanoke, VA. Marine Corps;
  - (3) Cpl. George N. Holmes, Jr., 22 Pine Bluff, AR. Marine Corps;
  - (4) Staff Sgt. Dewey L. Johnson, 32, Jacksonville, NC. Marine Corps;
  - (5) Capt. Harold L. Lewis, 35, Mansfield, CT. Air Force;
  - (6) Tech. Sgt. Joel C. Mayo, 34, Bonifay, FL. Air Force;
  - (7) Capt. Lynn D. McIntosh, 33, Valdosta, GA. Air



- Force; and  
(8) Capt. Charles T. McMillan II, 28, Corrytown, TN. Air Force; and
- “The Algerian Government brokered a January 19, 1981, agreement between Iran and the United States, to which the United States agreed, under duress, resulting in the release of the hostages on January 20, 1981.”

**Cost to Taxpayers:** The resolution authorizes no expenditures.

**Does the Bill Expand the Size and Scope of the Federal Government?:** No.

**Does the Bill Contain Any New State-Government, Local-Government, or Private-Sector Mandates?:** No.

**Does the Bill Comply with House Rules Regarding Earmarks/Limited Tax Benefits/Limited Tariff Benefits?:** A committee reporting citing compliance with the rules regarding earmarks, limited tax benefits, or limited tariff benefits is not available. However, the resolution does not contain any earmarks.

**Constitutional Authority:** A committee report citing constitutional authority is unavailable.

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## **H.Res. \_\_\_\_ - Honoring the lives of the brave soldiers and civilians of the United States Army who died or were wounded in the tragic attack of November 5, 2009 at Fort Hood, Texas. (Carter, R-TX)**

**Order of Business:** The resolution is scheduled to be considered on Friday, November 6, 2009, under a motion to suspend the rules and pass the resolution.

**Summary:** H.Res. \_\_\_\_ resolves that the House of Representatives:

- “Honors the lives of the brave soldiers and civilians of the United States Army who died or were wounded in the tragic attack of November 5, 2009, at Fort Hood, Texas. The American people share the pain and grief of this tragic loss. Our thoughts and prayers will continue to be with the families of those who were so unfortunately taken from them.”

**Committee Action:** H.Res. \_\_\_\_ was introduced on November 5, 2009, and referred to the House Committee on Armed Services, which took no public action.

**Cost to Taxpayers:** The resolution authorizes no expenditures.

**Does the Bill Expand the Size and Scope of the Federal Government?:** No.

**Does the Bill Contain Any New State-Government, Local-Government, or Private-Sector Mandates?:** No.

**Does the Bill Comply with House Rules Regarding Earmarks/Limited Tax Benefits/Limited Tariff Benefits?:** A committee reporting citing compliance with the rules regarding earmarks, limited tax benefits, or limited tariff benefits is not available. However, the resolution does not contain any earmarks.

**Constitutional Authority:** A committee report citing constitutional authority is unavailable.

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